

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL MEMORANDUM

SB 221 – HB 482

April 16, 2013

**SUMMARY OF ORIGINAL BILL:** Requires physicians in a hospital emergency department who have been presented with a case involving an overdose of a controlled substance to consult the controlled substance database and check whether such patient has been prescribed a controlled substance. If such substance has been prescribed, the physician is required to report the overdose to the Board of Medical Examiners and any other appropriate health-related board.

FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

**SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS (007145, 007113):** Deletes the original bill. Creates a pilot project ending February 28, 2013, which requires an attending physician in a hospital emergency department located in Putnam County, who has been presented with a case involving an overdose of a controlled substance to send a report to the Department of Health that includes the name of the patient, any necessary identifying information, and any additional information the physician deems pertinent at the time of the report. Requires the Department of Health to work with the appropriate hospitals within Putnam County to develop a form that can be used by hospital emergency departments to report the names of the persons who are present with an overdose. Further requires the Department to attempt to notify any recent prescribers of drugs for the patient that an overdose has occurred as long as the notification does not interfere with an investigation of one or more of the prescribers. Requires the Department of Health to make a report on its findings to the Senate Health and Welfare Committee and the Health Committee of the House of Representatives concerning the value and cost of the pilot project no later than March 15, 2014.

Amendment 7145 specifies that the “Department of Health” referenced in amendment 007113 is the state Department of Health.

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

Unchanged from the original fiscal note.

SB 221 – HB 482

Assumptions for the bill as amended:

- According to the Department of Health, from the most recent and available data, Putnam County's one hospital experienced 372 drug overdoses. Of the 372 overdoses, 115 were due to controlled substances.
- According to the Department of Health, there will be no significant impact associated with developing a form, notifying the appropriate prescribers, or making a report to the appropriate legislative bodies.

**CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lucian D. Geise". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lucian" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Geise".

Lucian D. Geise, Executive Director

/jdb